

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A remote keyboard has keys which are illuminated for identification under dim  
motherboard. For a first embodiment of the invention, the identifying symbol or symbols  
on each key top of the keyboard is formed from luminescent material. Alternatively, the  
symbol or symbols on each key top are formed from a translucent material in which  
tritium is embedded. Tritium, which has a half-life of about 12.5 years, emits low-energy  
beta particle radiation. The radiation, which is of sufficiently low energy that it may be  
blocked by a piece of paper, may be rendered innocuous by placing clear plastic radiation  
shields over each key top. For a second embodiment of the invention, the key caps  
themselves are molded from luminescent material, while the symbols are formed from  
contrasting black or dark-colored non-luminescent material. A third embodiment of the  
invention utilizes fiber optics to convey light from at least one low-power source, such as  
a light-emitting diode, to each of the various key caps, each of which is molded from a  
translucent material. The symbols on the key caps are of a color which contrasts with  
that of the key caps. Black letters on light colored translucent key caps are the preferred  
combination. Another embodiment of the present invention for backlighting a keyboard  
is to use a transparent projector pane positioned beneath translucent or transparent key  
caps on which identifying symbols are printed. Light from a light source at the edge of  
the projector pane is transmitted throughout the pane. An aperture beneath each key top  
projects light up through the key caps, illuminating the symbols.